Copy

Boston Dec. 14. 1837.

PHELPS MSS.

To the Standing Committee.
of the Park Stut Church

118

The undersigned, a committee of the Board of Managers of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, request the privilege of the use of the Park Street Meeting House, on the evening of the 22d inst., for the purpose of a meeting to commemorate, in a suitable manner, the recent death of the Rev. E. P. Lovejoy of Alton, Ill., by a lawless mob.

The meeting is to be held in accordance with a recommendation of the American Anti-Slavery Society, that simultaneous meetings, on the subject, be held, on that day, throughout the country. The exercises of the meeting will be of a solemn religious character— such as shall be appropriate to a house consecrated to the worship of God.

Amos A. Phelps.
Francis Jackson.
John E. Fuller.

Reply - Returned from the member of the committee to whom it was given, with the answer, that they could not get a meeting of the committee, in season to act on it.

Salem Street.

The same application was sent to "The Standing Com-
-mittee of the Salem Street Church", & that Committee turned
it over to the the hands of the Pastor & deacons, & they
decided that the house could not be had!

(1)

Copy.

Boston Dec. 14. 1837

Mr. Porter

Dear Sir

I notice with surprise, & contrary to all my previous impressions in regard to the character & design of the proposed convention, that the question of the propriety or impropriety of a new anti-slavery organization is not to be open for discussion in that body, & that none but those who are in favor of such an organization are to be allowed to take part in the proceedings of the convention.

I write this to say that to an organization got up after this manner I shall make all the opposition in my power. In public lectures & in the public prints I shall feel bound to expose & speak against its character & designs. At the annual meeting of the American Society, at New York, I shall contest the question of its auxiliaryship. I state this, not in terrorem, but merely that you may know just where I stand in relation to it & why. And I write this note also to inquire whether you will allow me to express my views in relation to the matter in the columns of the Spectator. An early reply will oblige. Yours for the slave

A. A. Phelps

Reply (2)

The question is by no means settled when the convention shall be called, or the nature of the call. From consultation, we are more & more convinced that benevolent movements ~~etc~~ should be conducted ~~carried forward~~ only by benevolent men in the true gospel sense. The true church is the only body qualified to do God's work, & the ~~this~~ question now is how shall the business be put into their hands, & how shall they be ~~induced~~ made to bring out their energies to the doing good? The subject is taking a much deeper & wider range than you perhaps anticipate. Bro. Mr. Wells is becoming deeply interested. Deac. G. does not find his plans seconded by brethren so well as he could wish, & upon further communication will not perhaps be needful at present. Please make free as my Bro. You will of course keep the contents of this to yourself. — Many societies will probably soon be formed as near our stand and as we can. Yours truly W. S. P.

Dec. 15.

Boston Dec. 20 1837

Bro. Phelps

I find there is a disposition on the part of some of our friends so to word the call for a convention, that the question of the expediency of a new organization shall be settled by the convention — and this of course will open the door for all abolitionists to come in — I can see many reasons in favour and I have no doubt it will be done — I should think it would be best to delay your communication at least for one week, and if you mean to retain your present influence with the orthodox community perhaps even longer — yours very truly

John Pierpont

Reply (2)

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Dec. 15. 1841. J. W.